



Testimony before the General Law Committee- House Bill 5430

March 5, 2014

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and Members of the General Law Committee, my name is Greg Gardner and I am the general manager of J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville. I am speaking in support of House Bill 5430, An Act Permitting Restaurant and Café Permit Holders to Sell Growlers of Beer at Retail.

Over the last year we have seen a growing flow of inquiries from our guests wanting to know if we could fill their growlers. This is part of a larger trend driven by consumers, young and old, who are more and more interested in what they eat and drink. Multiple states have already begun this accommodation and currently allow growlers to be filled by restaurants and bars. Connecticut currently allows the filling of growlers at brewery sites.

This change will help support a fledgling brewing community by providing greater and more economical access to a broader market. It will be easier for them to become economically viable and continue to support the creation of jobs.

Consumers will have better access to products from Connecticut and around the world in a form that has not been available to them. Restaurants will be able to provide a service that their customers are looking for. Connecticut will benefit from a more vibrant economy, and of course, more taxes to collect.

J. Timothy's recently held a second anniversary event in honor of our hometown brewery, an event that filled within three days of it being announced. It was attended by over fifty craft beer enthusiasts. During the event one of our owners began a discussion regarding this proposal, seeking feedback from the group. The response was resoundingly positive! These are folks whom I am sure you will hear from.

Many of our liquor laws are archaic and confusing. Passage of this simple modification is a positive step for all and will help bring Connecticut on par with the states around it. I hope you will give it your utmost consideration.

Thank you for your time.